AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Currently amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly having a fixed type constant velocity universal joint, coupled to a wheel bearing, mounted to one end portion of an intermediate shaft, and a sliding type constant velocity universal joint, coupled to a differential, mounted to the other end portion of said intermediate shaft, wherein an allowable plunging down to a bottom portion of an outer joint ring of said sliding type constant velocity universal joint is set substantially equal to a sum of a width of an inner joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint and a length of a projection ~~above~~ of the intermediate shaft beyond an edge surface of said inner joint ring, at a minimum operative angle of the sliding type constant velocity universal joint.

10. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein a stem portion of an outer joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal

joint is made hollow, and the hollow portion is allowed to communicate with a house portion of the outer joint ring.

11. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly having a fixed type constant velocity universal joint, coupled to a wheel bearing, mounted to one end portion of an intermediate shaft, and a sliding type constant velocity universal joint, coupled to a differential, mounted to the other end portion of said intermediate shaft,

wherein an allowable plunging down to a bottom portion of an outer joint ring of said sliding type constant velocity universal joint is set to at least a width of an inner joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint at a minimum operative angle of the sliding type constant velocity universal joint,

wherein a stem portion of an outer joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint is made hollow, and the hollow portion is allowed to communicate with a house portion of the outer joint ring,

wherein an end cap is mounted to a communicating region between the hollow portion of said stem portion and said house portion, and a communicating portion is formed substantially at a center of the end cap.

12. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein said wheel bearing is plastically connected to an outer joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint.

13. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein a seal boot is mounted on said stub shaft or on the outer diameter portion of the other end portion of said intermediate shaft.

14. (Original) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 13, wherein said seal boot is formed of resin.

15. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein one of a plurality of rows of races in said wheel bearing is formed on an outer diameter portion of a hub ring constituting the wheel bearing, and another race is formed on an outer diameter portion of a separate inner ring engaging an outer joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint.

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein at least one of a plurality of rows of races of said wheel bearing is formed integrally on an outer diameter portion of an outer joint ring of said fixed type constant velocity universal joint.

18. (Previously Amended) A drive wheel bearing assembly according to claim 9, wherein one of the plurality of rows of races in said wheel bearing is formed on the outer

diameter portion of the hub ring constituting the wheel bearing, and another race is formed on the outer diameter portion of the separate inner ring engaging said hub ring.

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

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25. (Withdrawn)

26. (Withdrawn)

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30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Withdrawn)

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Withdrawn)

37. (Withdrawn)

38. (Withdrawn)